

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (original) A system for communicating with a plurality of emergency response persons comprising:
 - a plurality of portable communication devices for the emergency response persons;
 - a central station in communication with the network, the central station including a video monitor and a video camera;
 - a plurality of remote stations in communication with the network, the remote stations including a video monitor and a video camera;
 - wherein the central station is in communication with the portable communication devices to provide a message to the emergency response persons;
 - wherein the remote stations are positioned for access by the emergency response persons;
 - a router in communication with the network for providing a bridged video connection between the central station and the remote stations;
 - wherein emergency response persons located adjacent the remote stations are in video communication with each other and the central station.

2. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the network has a bandwidth and wherein the system further comprises:
 - a system integrator having access to a memory which stores a bandwidth value for the remote stations;
 - wherein the system integrator determines an operating bandwidth value for each remote station as a function of a bandwidth value stored in the memory and of a bandwidth of at least a portion of the network between the system integrator and the remote station.

3. (original) The system of claim 2 wherein at least two of the remote stations communicate with the central station at different operating bandwidth values.

4. (original) The system of claim 3 wherein the remote stations communicate with each other at different operating bandwidth values.

5. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the remote stations further comprise a CODEC coupled to a video camera for transmitting packets of data corresponding to an output of the video camera and for receiving packets of data provided to an input of the video monitor.

6. (original) The system of claim 5 wherein the system integrator prevents the transmitted or received packets of data from exceeding a predetermined bandwidth.

7. (original) The system of claim 6 wherein a portion of the network between a remote station and the central station comprises the internet.

8. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein a portion of the network between two remote stations comprises the internet.

9. (original) The system of claim 6 wherein a portion of the network between two remote stations comprises the internet.

10. (original) The system of claim 5 wherein a portion of the network between a remote station and the central station comprises the internet.

11. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein a remote station comprises a personal computer.

12. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein a remote station comprises a telephone.

13. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the communications over the network are encrypted.

14. (original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a voice trigger circuit for providing a voice signal as a function of whether a particular video camera outputs an audible signal; wherein the router determines an image displayed on the video monitors as a function of the voice signal.

15. (original) The system of claim 1 further comprising circuitry for producing a data signal; wherein the router determines an image displayed on the video monitors as a function of the data signal.

16. (original) A method of responding to an emergency situation comprising the steps of:
providing a plurality of portable communication devices to a plurality of emergency response persons;

directing the emergency response persons from a central station via the portable communication devices to travel to a remote station having a video communication device;

routing a communication from the video communication devices to provide a bridged video connection between the central station and the remote stations;

wherein emergency response persons located adjacent the remote stations are in video communication with each other and the central station.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
providing a network having a bandwidth for passing the video communications between the remote stations and the central station;

storing a bandwidth value for the remote stations;

determining an operating bandwidth value for each remote station as a function of the stored bandwidth value and of a bandwidth of at least a portion of the network between the remote stations and the central station.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of operating at least two of the remote stations to communicate with the central station at different operating bandwidth values.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of operating at least two of the remote stations to communicate with each other at different operating bandwidth values.

20. (original) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of coupling a CODEC to a video camera in a remote station for transmitting packets of data corresponding to an output of the video camera and for receiving packets of data provided to an input of the video monitor at the remote station.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of preventing the transmitted or received packets of data from exceeding a predetermined bandwidth.

22. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the second providing step further comprises providing the internet as a portion of the network between a remote station and the central station.

23. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the second providing step further comprises providing the internet as a portion of the network between two remote stations.

24. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the directing step comprises directing the emergency response persons from a central station via the portable communication devices to travel to a personal computer having a video communication device.

25. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the directing step comprises directing the emergency response persons from a central station via the portable communication devices to travel to a telephone having a video communication device.

26. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the second providing step further comprises the step of providing a network having a bandwidth for passing encrypted video communications.

27. (original) The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
producing a voice signal as a function of whether a particular video camera outputs an audible signal; and
determining an image displayed on the video monitors as a function of the voice signal.

28. (original) The system of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
producing a data signal; and
determining an image displayed on the video monitors as a function of the data signal.

29. (original) The system of claim 2 wherein the operating bandwidth value does not exceed 100 kBytes per second for the remote stations.

30. (original) The system of claim 2 wherein the operating bandwidth value does not exceed 150 kBytes per second for the remote stations.

31. (original) The system of claim 2 wherein the operating bandwidth value does not exceed 400 kBytes per second for the remote stations.

32. (original) The system of claim 2 wherein the operating bandwidth value does not exceed 1,000 kBytes per second for the remote stations.

33. - 71 (canceled)